

CHURCH NEWS

FROM THE NORTHERN COUNTRIES

Edited by

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Anglo-Scandinavian Theological Conference at High Level.

An Anglo-Scandinavian theological conference attended by a number of bishops, among others, was held in Oxford in July. The main theme of the conference was "The Gospel and the Present Time", and a number of topics relating to the message of the Christian Church in modern industrialized society were discussed. Such conferences at which Anglican and Lutheran theologians discuss topical Church problems have taken place for a number of years. The next conference was planned for 1961 in Norway.

Evangelical Rally for Hungarian Refugees in the Northern Countries.

This summer the committees for Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees in Denmark, Norway and Sweden arranged an evangelical rally for Hungarian refugees in these countries under the chairmanship of the Hungarian minister, the Rev. József Glatz. At the rally, which lasted for three weeks and comprised lectures, Bible studies and discussions, it was announced that there are now some 10 000 Hungarian refugees in the three Scandinavian countries. One fourth of these are Protestants, the rest Roman Catholics.

Northern Missionary Societies Arrange Film Script Competition.

The four largest Lutheran missionary societies in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden respectively have arranged a competition for the best script for a film taking its subject from foreign mission work and also for the best manuscript for a series of lantern slides describing foreign missions. Northern co-operation in the field of films and slides in particular makes a higher standard and a more efficient application of available funds possible.

Many Northern Rallies and Conferences.

During the summer a great number of conferences and rallies have taken place in the Northern countries, the most important of which are given below:

In Århus (Denmark) 350 clergymen met in order to discuss topical theological and practical Church problems. These meetings take place every third year, the next one to be held in Norway.

The clergymen's wives also meet every third year and this summer the Northern meeting was held at Sigtuna (Sweden) for 350 members under the motto "Prayer and Worship". The meeting was led by the wife of the late Archbishop Yngve Brilioth.

The 15th Sunday School assembly in Stavanger (Norway) was attended by 350 men and women. Since 1904 these meetings have been of an ecumenical character, attended as they are by representatives of both National Church and Free Church Sunday schools. In connection with the assembly there was an exhibition of modern Sunday school supplies.

On the little island of Hankø in the Oslo Fiord 250 YWCA leaders from the five Northern countries met for training and devotions; and at Nyborg Strand (Denmark) 270 physicians took part in the 7th Northern Christian Medical Conference.

175 lay-preachers and their wives attended a 3-days' Northern Home Mission meeting at Framnes Continuation School in Norway.

No less than 700 women teachers were gathered in Gothenburg for the 7th Northern assembly of the Women Teachers' Missionary Association at which a number of foreign mission problems were discussed. The Association is ecumenical with the particular task of supporting women teachers on the mission fields.

The 12th Northern conference for "deacons" (in the Northern Lutheran Churches men trained for social and spiritual work in connection with the Church) at Dianalund (Denmark) was attended by 300 "deacons"; and the same number of deaconesses and other women engaged in similar work from the Northern countries met in Sweden. In both places the importance of the service of "deacons" and deaconesses in the Church was stressed, and a number of practical questions were discussed.

The Northern Christian Temperance Council meeting in Stavanger (Norway) issued an appeal to all Northern Christians to become total abstainers. The appeal expresses disquiet with regard to the increasing abuse of alcohol, not the least among young people, and urges more extensive care of alcoholics and their dependants.

Finally, some 300 representatives of the folk high schools in the Northern countries met at the Grundtvig Folk High School in Hillerød (Denmark) at the end of August. The main subject of discussion was the task of the folk high school and its possibilities in a society more and more moving away from the structure of an urban and village community which was the original basis for the folk high school movement. Normally the Northern folk high school conferences take place every third year.

DENMARK

Opposed to Confessional Broadcasting in Africa.

In a leading article the "Kristeligt Dagblad" in Copenhagen opposes the plan for distinct Lutheran programmes over the broadcasting station planned by the Lutheran World Federation to be erected in Ethiopia. The paper thus joins the Danish Missionary Council in its doubts about such plans (see CN No. 48).

The "Kristeligt Dagblad" confesses to be "Lutheran from gratitude and by conviction", but feels that a broadcasting station in the service of foreign missions should be run along ecumenical and not specifically Lutheran lines. It is emphasized to be a good principle, also in this connection, that undertakings which may be solved on an ecumenical basis should not be of a confessional character. "So far Lutheranism in South India has demonstrated its independence by not joining the Church of South India. Is the same self-sufficient separatism to be repeated in Africa?" the paper asks, and stresses the point that the young Churches should not be forced into becoming part of the tangled and often not too pleasing Church history of the old Christendom.

In his weekly issue to the provincial press the editor of the "Kristeligt Pressebureau", Mr. Jørgen Ginnerup, expresses similar views. "Africa must not necessarily be won for Lutheranism but for Christianity", he writes.

These articles were printed before the news was received that The Lutheran World Federation and the ecumenical regional organization, the Near East Christian Council, had agreed to share broadcasting time and expenses regardless of which of them obtained concession for the running of the station.

Danish Baptists Warn Against Too Hasty Integration.

The Danish Baptist Church has joined in a statement forwarded by the English Baptists to the World Council of Churches, in which they advocate not to be too hasty in carrying into effect an integration of the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council. There is no opposition to the proposed integration, but sufficient time for discussions of the matter is urged so that efforts may be made for the removal of all misunderstandings before an actual integration.

An Appeal to the Danish Nation.

In a sermon held recently in the Cathedral of Copenhagen, Dean Paul Brodersen, one of Moral Rearmament's prominent leaders in Denmark, appealed to the Danish nation to shoulder its responsibility as a free nation. He said that the peoples of Africa and Asia were watching for the fruits of freedom in the democratic, so-called Christian countries, and observed the kind of life led in the countries depending on atheism and State dictatorship. "We have a share in the responsibility for their choice", he said.

"Our freedom is threatened", the Dean continued. "When we set profiteering, ambition, indulgence and popularity above our obligations towards truth and justice, then we ourselves undermine our freedom Are we willing to sacrifice as much in the cause of our faith as are the Communists who work day and night for their ideas? A halfhearted, passive, materialistic Christianity does not suffice in the face of a revolutionary Communism which, to quote Lenin, "aims at eradicating the myth about God in the hearts of men".

"I am convinced that in Denmark as well as in the whole world we are faced with a choice which may no longer be ignored. We still enjoy the liberty to choose. Now we must wake up. Now we must choose", Dean Brodersen concluded his sermon which was transmitted over the State Broadcasting Corporation and reported in parts in a number of Danish newspapers."

New Dioceses in the Faroe Islands and Greenland?

An overwhelming majority of the parochial councils in the Faroe Islands, at present belonging to the Diocese of Copenhagen, have appealed to the Ministry of Church Affairs for a bishop of their own so that the old see of the Faroe Islands might be re-established.

At the same time a majority of 11 out of 13 members of the Greenland Clergymen's Convention are in favour of a suffragan bishop in Greenland instead of the present rural dean under the Bishop of Copenhagen. The two minority members of the Convention want an independent diocese to be established.

The requests will now be examined by the Commission set up by the Ministry of Church Affairs to investigate the possibilities for a division of the Diocese of Copenhagen when Bishop H. Fuglsang-Damgaard next year retires on account of age.

News in Brief.

- The Lutheran World Federation has appointed Professor K.E. Skydsgaard, Copenhagen, as Head of the new scientific confessional institute which is to deal especially with relations with Roman Catholicism. For the time being Professor Skydsgaard will remain in Copenhagen.

- Bishop Halfdan Høgsbro and Professor Regin Prenter in co-operation with three Danish clergymen have published a book, "Woman and the Ecclesiastical Office", giving a theological correspondence about women ministers. Professor Prenter is against the thought while Bishop Høgsbro himself has ordained a woman.

FINLAND

New Bishop of Mikkeli (St. Michel's) Diocese.

At the election of a new Bishop of Mikkeli (St. Michel's) Diocese in succession to Bishop Martti Simojoki who took possession of the newly established See of Helsinki (Helsingfors) on July 1st, Dean Osmo Alaja, Turku (Åbo), obtained most votes, Professor Erkki Kansanaho came second, and Dr. Olavi Kares third. Consequently, Dean Alaja was appointed to the office. The new Bishop is 44 years old and was made a Doctor of Divinity in 1944.

Methodist Church Celebrates Centenary.

The centenary last month of the Finnish Methodist Church was commemorated by a number of celebrations in Vaasa (Vasa) and Helsinki (Helsingfors). On this occasion the Swedish Lutheran weekly in Finland, the "Församlingsbladet", wrote that the Methodists have enriched the spiritual life of Finland during their hundred years of work. The paper especially stressed the open-minded understanding of other Christians characteristic of the Methodists and their concentration on fundamental Christian truths which have won for Methodism the sympathy of the Lutheran National Church.

The Methodist Communion Table is open to all Christians and not only to their own members.

At the Centenary Conference at Vaasa (Vasa) Bishop Odd Hagen, Head of the Methodist Church in all the Northern countries, ordained the first woman minister in Finland, the Rev. Sigrid Wennström, who is to serve in Sweden, however.

Is Protestantism Hostile to Art?

The periodical of the Finnish Dominicans, "Documenta", has re-printed an article by Professor Nils Erik Wickberg from the periodical "Arkitekten" in which the Professor accuses Protestantism of animosity towards art. "It is not the fault of the architects that many modern Protestant church buildings look like shoe factories", he writes. "The reason is that the owners themselves regard the Christian congregation as a business undertaking. People no longer go to church but to the 'work centre'."

Where Protestantism is most intensely alive, in revivalist piety, it is generally disdainful, indifferent, or even hostile towards works of art, maintaining that the only real sanctuary is in the hearts of believers. The consequence is that church architecture has deteriorated in the Protestant world while the Roman-Catholic Church offers a much greater scope for really fine artistic church building.

Every epoch and every religious community have the kind of sanctuaries they deserve, Professor Wickberg maintains. And, while the architectural styles of the Middle Ages grew out of sacral architecture, the order has been reversed since the Renaissance.

The Professor calls for a thorough discussion of the situation and the tasks of the Evangelical-Lutheran Church to-day, a clarification of its attitude to art, and of the conditions for a Lutheran sacral architecture and the possibilities for pictorial art in this connection.

Rev. Emil Koren from Budapest Visits Finland.

Last month Rev. Emil Koren, Lutheran Senior of Pest and Deputee Bishop of Budapest, visited Helsinki (Helsingfors). Expressing the joy of the Hungarian Church at the unofficial contact established with the Finnish Church, Rev. Koren added the wish that official ties between the two Churches might be renewed.

Conditions for the Lutheran Church in Hungary were now stabilized, Rev. Koren said. "We have found our way in the new society", he went on to say, among other things, and he expressed his view on the actual situation in this way: "Our Lutheran Church wants to be a Church in the world of Socialism. The members of the congregation live their lives in this world and the Church must make it possible for them to find the gospel. It must be possible, of course, to preach the gospel under any conditions."

Rev. Koren said that the work of the congregations was concentrated around divine services and Bible studies. The educational activities of the Church went on unhampered, and the Hungarian Church was grateful to God that it had been relieved of any cultural work. The State pays one-third of clergymen's salaries and subsidizes church repairs. The Clergymen's Training College in Budapest passes out 10 clergymen a year which is enough to meet the demand. Members of the Church show a happy generosity, collections to-day surpassing the amounts obtained through Church taxation in earlier days.

Successful Celebrations of Mission Jubilee in Amboland.

Last month the Finnish Missionary Society celebrated its centenary on the old mission field in Amboland, South Africa, by a jubilee gathering in Engela which was attended by app. 5 000 people. The function began with the ordination of a minister, conferred by the Moderator of the Ambo-Kavango Church, Rev. Alpo Hukka. Congratulations were received from, among others, the Administrator of South Africa, Mr. Viljoen, and the Finnish chargé d'affaires in South Africa, Mr. H.K. Martola.

Night Missionary Murdered.

This summer Mr. Victor Nyholm, for many years a member of the Helsinki (Helsingfors) Night Missionary Society, was murdered in the "Home of Friends in Distress". This event has made a deep impression on many people and acts as a reminder that Christian work of charity among the "down-and-out's" of society may also involve serious physical risks.

About 30 000 People Attend Revivalist Meeting.

Also this year the summer meeting at Kuopio of the revivalist movement was well attended, 25 000 - 30 000 people being present. The total length of all the benches put together amounted to 11 kilometres, and the post office employed a special stamp for postmarking all mail from the meeting.

Bishop Urges Healthier Forms for Social Conventions.

This summer two young girls were brutally murdered during their stay at a camping site at Heinävesi. Finnish public opinion was outraged and Bishop Eino Sormunen, Kuopio, felt called upon to issue a statement in which he emphasizes the importance of teaching young people healthier and cleaner social conventions. "Young people's own ideas of social conventions are in need of a thorough revision in order that the present unhealthy sexual bias may be eradicated, and parents and educators must cultivate an even keener sense of responsibility and try to implant it the young", the Bishop says.

In another statement Bishop G.O. Rosenqvist, Borgå (Porvoo), also describes the murder as a stirring challenge to the whole nation and, especially, to educators.

Kyrkslätt Church Rededicated.

The church in Kyrkslätt on the Porkkala peninsula was rededicated last month after an extensive restoration to which large sums have been collected in the Northern countries as well as in Finland. Thus the big organ has been paid with donations from Denmark and a Danish-American friend. Besides Bishop G.O. Rosenqvist, Archbishop Salomies, the Swedish Bishop Cullberg, and the Danish Bishop Schiøler, the Finnish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ralf Törngren, and many other specially invited guests were present at the consecration ceremony. As may be remembered, the Porkkala peninsula became Russian in 1944, but was returned to Finland in January, 1956.

New Rules for Church Taxation.

As from January 1st next, the Finnish Income Tax Act will be amended to the effect that Church taxes, State taxes and local taxes from members of the Lutheran National and the Orthodox Churches will be collected simultaneously. Wages of all wage-earners are reduced by the amount to be paid in taxes before being handed over.

ICELAND

Clergymen on Iceland Intervene in the Fishing Dispute.

By writing an open letter to Anglican ecclesiastics the clergymen on Iceland have intervened in the fishing dispute between Britain and Iceland. The British Government has refused to recognize the 12-mile limit imposed on foreign cutters fishing off Iceland as laid down by law by the Icelandic "Alting" (Parliament).

The open letter, addressed to the Archbishops and forwarded to 60 British newspapers, is signed by Bishop Sigurbjörn Einarsson and Rev. Jakob Jonsson, President of the Icelandic Clergymen's Association.

The letter refers to the ties of friendship traditional between the church members of the two countries, but these ties, the letter says, have been severed by the actions of the British Government in the course of the dispute about the fishing limits, actions which are an infringement of the laws governing Christian fellowship, and encroachments on good Christian custom.

Britain, the letter goes on, is the only country whose government has resorted to force in the disagreement. But confident that the British clergymen, on learning the truth, will be eager to influence public opinion so that "the British nation will no longer put up with their Government's damaging encroachments which are destroying the good relationship between two Christian nations", the Icelandic clergymen conclude the letter by requesting their British colleagues to study the different points of view underlying the dispute.

NORWAY

Opposition to the Decision by Missionary Council.

In a leader the weekly "Vår Kirke", published by the Oslo Home Mission, feels it would be a tragedy if Norwegian missionary societies place themselves outside international co-operation by withdrawing from the International Missionary Council as a protest against an integration with the World Council of Churches (see CN No. 49).

In the statement indicating its standpoint the Norwegian Missionary Council said that "the majority of the friends of foreign missions in this country and all over the world see a danger in the very wide and theologically weak foundation of the World Council of Churches and, as a result, must oppose it." Now the paper asks whether there has been any polling on this matter, supplying such information and, if not, describes it as being "dishonest to employ that kind of argumentation and to take advantage of an imaginary quantity when making far-reaching decisions."

The Basis of the World Council of Churches.

The discussion of the foundation of the World Council of Churches has flared up in Norway once more occasioned by the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches taking up for consideration at its meeting this summer the Norwegian proposal at the Evanston Conference in 1954 for an amendment of the wording of this basis.

The Norwegian proposal said that the concept of scripturalism should be included in the basis clause so that it would read as follows: "The World Council of Churches is a fellowship of Churches which, in accordance with Holy Scripture, confess our Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour."

One of the Norwegian Home Mission's prominent leaders, Rector Carl Fr. Wisløff, maintains that such an amendment will make no difference either way. "Matters of faith should always be discussed on the basis of the Scriptures alone, and the proposed amendment does not say anything about this point, either. The World Council of Churches is a meeting ground for all kinds of confessions and it is this confusion which goes against the grain with many of us", Mr. Wisløff writes.

The weekly publication of the Oslo Home Mission "Var Kirke", does not share the views of Mr. Wisløff which it describes as a manifestation of a "renaissance of the cold climate of orthodoxy". The paper asks whether "the Scriptures alone" has become merely a doctrinal principle and adds that, if such is the case, it will be terribly easy to go on to say "we alone".

International Council of Christian Churches Attacks the Ecumenical Movement.

At the end of July the International Council of Christian Churches, whose President is the American, Mr. Carl McIntire, met for a European Evangelical Conference in Oslo under the motto "The Authority of Holy Writ". About 100 members, most of them from Denmark and Sweden, took part in the conference.

At a press conference Mr. McIntire described the Metropolitan Nicolai of Moscow as an agent of the Soviet secret police, and Bishop Ordass as a tool in the hands of the Communists. The Christian daily paper in Oslo, "Vårt Land", which otherwise agrees with the International Council of Christian Churches' conception of the Bible as being the only guide and foundation of ecumenical activities, dissociated itself from the unfair polemics of the movement.

The conference passed several resolutions, one in opposition to the World Council of Churches, one against the International Missionary Council and one about the authority of the Scriptures.

At the press conference prior to the meeting the Northern leader of the movement, Dr. David Hedegård, Sweden, said that 64 churches in 29 countries are affiliated to the International Council of Christian Churches. The largest of these is the Christian Reformed Church of Holland, a Baptist Church in the Philippines and a Presbyterian group in Brazil. Of the Lutherans only the congregations in London and of the Methodists only the French section are members.

300 000 Visit Church at Agricultural Exhibition.

The modern church erected at the site of the agricultural jubilee exhibition at Ekeberg, near Oslo, turned out to be a great success, app. 300 000 having visited it during the 25 days the exhibition lasted. There were 125 church services, Bible classes, demonstrations of youth club activities, Sunday school classes, film shows, and evening prayers. A small special exhibition showed the structure of the Norwegian Lutheran National Church and the work of the voluntary organizations belonging to it.

When the exhibition closed down the church was moved to one of the new residential quarters in Oslo where it will serve as a temporary church.

An interesting statistics at the small exhibition showed that the total sum of voluntary gifts towards religious enterprises amounts to app. 25 million Norwegian crowns annually and that there are 1 500 full-time workers employed by the voluntary religious organizations.

The Church Establishes Family Consultation Centre in Bergen.

The Diocesan Council of Bjørgvin has decided to establish a Church centre for family consultation. At present the centre will be run by voluntary helpers, and the idea is to form teams consisting of a minister, a social adviser, a physician, a lawyer and possibly other suitable people.

Dispute About the Ethical Grounds for Family Consultations.

In a radio broadcast advocating extensive public family consultation the Norwegian Director of Public Health Service, Mr. Karl Ewang, did not mention anything about the many consultation centres established in the course of time on Church initiative. This has resulted in a lively discussion of the ethical grounds for family consultation.

Regarding it as part of the ordinary health service, the Director of Health maintains that the natural consequence must be a both religiously and politically natural consultation service. He wants to connect it with the app. 1 400 mother and child care clinics throughout the country. The answer to this on behalf of Church circles is that this is something not to be regarded on the same level as medical consultation, dealing, as it does, with advice and guidance in purely human and often ethical matters. "In such circumstances, religious-ethical neutrality is just as senseless as a lack of neutrality is senseless in the ordinary health service", the Christian daily paper in Oslo, "Vårt Land", writes.

News in Brief.

- Rev. H.E. Wisløff, one of the prominent men of the Norwegian Home Mission, has been appointed as the new Bishop of the Diocese Sør-Mølogaland.

- The Norwegian Parliament has resolved unanimously that the part of the costs in the erection of churches and social building projects covered by voluntary gifts is to be exempted from purchase tax. A motion to the effect that the whole cost of church building should be exempted from purchase tax was turned down, however, by 72 votes against 59.

- At the European Methodist Conference in Bristol this summer it was decided that the next International Methodist Conference should take place in Oslo in 1961.

- The Oslo Home Mission paper "Vår Kirke" has suggested that the Diocese of Oslo should be divided. It comprises 1 million of the app. 3 million inhabitants of Norway.

SWEDEN

Dean Askmark Becomes Bishop of Linköping.

Dean Ragnar Askmark, Gothenburg, has been appointed Bishop of Linköping. The new Bishop is 44 years old and, among other things, is the President of the Youth Organization of the Swedish National Church.

No Change in Relations with the Anglican Church.

On his return from a week's official visit to Archbishop Fisher in Canterbury this summer, Archbishop Gunnar Hultgren said that no negotiations had taken place with regard to the Swedish decision to allow the ordination of women. "Anglican circles have clearly shown that they have no intention of interfering in the internal affairs of the Swedish Church", the Archbishop added, being under the impression that the leaders of the Anglican Church wish to retain the present inter-communion fellowship.

During Archbishop Hultgren's stay in England plans were discussed for an extension of contacts between the Anglican and the Swedish Churches through mutual visits.

Mission Covenant Church Against Nuclear Weapons.

An extremely animated discussion on the question of nuclear weapons - a burning topic in Sweden at the moment - took place at the annual meeting of the big Swedish Free Church community, the Mission Covenant Church. The result was the passing of a resolution in which Government and Parliament are requested not to introduce nuclear weapons into the Swedish defence forces in consideration of the divergencies of opinion as to the consequences of employing such weapons. The resolution furthermore dissociates itself from the conception of war as a means of solving international conflicts, and expresses the wish for the cessation, under proper control, of the production of atomic bombs.

Woman Minister in the Swedish Baptist Church.

The first woman minister in the Swedish Baptist Church, Miss Birgit Karlsson, was ordained for future service in the Church at the annual convocation in Gothenburg.

No Merging - Yet - of the Two Baptist Communities.

This summer both the Swedish Baptist Church and the Örebro Missionary Society, which became independent 25 years ago, changed their leaders, which made people wonder whether it might result in a reunion of the two communities. This will not happen, however, at least not for the time being.

The new Mission Director of the Baptist Church, Rev. Simon Öberg, is strongly in favour of a merging and believes that it will happen in the course of a few years. Rev. Linné Eriksson, new Head of the Örebro Missionary Society who will assume office next year, on the other hand, does not want any change and, according to him, this view is shared by the Executive Committee.

"Helgelseförbundet" (The Holiness Union) has also elected a new President, the Editor Harald Norburg, Malmö.

Philosophy Instead of Religious Instruction?

Among other things, a very lively debate on religious instruction in schools took place in the Students' Parliament, an assembly of pupils in schools for higher education, last month in Stockholm. The student organization suggested that scripture classes should be replaced by instruction in philosophy. This proposal was not carried, however, a resolution being passed instead expressing the desirability of giving wider scope for studies of other religions and non-Christian beliefs as well as a co-ordination of the subject with philosophy.

Religious Film on Youth Delinquency.

At the moment the Foundation for the Furthering of Religious Films is shooting a film about youth delinquency. The shots are taken in bars, churches, and open-air sites in Stockholm, and all the actors are amateurs. The script is written by the Rev. Ingemar Martinsson and the film also deals with the assistance offered by the Church to young delinquents. The film will be ready for release by the end of October.

Churches May Be Used for Other Than Religious Functions?

According to a Bill drawn up by the Swedish Ministry of Church Affairs giving new rules for the use of the buildings belonging to the Lutheran National Church, these may be used not only for divine services, but also for meetings of a non-religious character, for lectures, concerts, and various meetings of associations, as well as for weddings and funerals according to other rituals than those of the Lutheran National Church. Decision about such uses is to rest with the parochial council and not with the rector of the church.

On the whole, the Bill has been favourably received by the Press, and Free Church quarters heartily approve of it. However, the weekly of the Mission Covenant Church "Svensk Veckotidning" emphasizes that the Free Churches should avail themselves of the free access to the parish church only when for reasons of accommodation or similar difficulties they are not able to make use of their own localities for religious events.

Joint Conference for Trade Unions and Missionary Council.

This month representatives of the Swedish trade unions, the Co-operative Association, and the Swedish Missionary Council will meet for a conference about aid to the underdeveloped countries. For many

years now the missionary societies have worked in Asia and Africa and after the trade unions and the Co-operative Association have also offered their assistance in the same regions it seems natural to have a joint conference. The conference will take place at the school at Runö and the idea has caused wide attention.

Crisis in the Home Mission Board.

The Rev. Ingmar Ström has been appointed the Director of the Svenska Kyrkans Diakonistyreelse (Home Mission Board of the Church of Sweden). Rev. Ström is 47 years old, and has been the editor of "Vår Kyrka", the weekly of the Home Mission Board. He is known to be strongly in favour of the ordination of women but "Vår Kyrka" has been open also for the opposite opinion.

As a result of the appointment of Rev. Ström two members of the staff of the Diakonistyrelsen, namely Rev. Ebbe Arvidsson and Rev. Eric Grönlund, both secretaries of the Youth Department, as a matter of principle have expressed their intention to leave the Diakonistyrelsen.

News in Brief.

- The Director of the Swedish Section of the Lutheran World Federation, Rev. Åke Kastlund, has been appointed Head of the Town Mission in Stockholm as from July 1st next year.

- The Pentecostal Movement has requested of the Swedish Government that permission be given for the establishment on Swedish soil of a religious broadcasting station with programmes in many languages.

- For reasons of economy the daily newspaper of the Pentecostal Movement "Dagen" has had to dismiss 9 of its staff members but hopes to weather the storm.

- Information is given by the Rev. Herman Schlyter in the "Svensk Kyrkotidning" that an evangelical academy on the lines of the German ones will be established at Båstad in the Diocese of Lund.

- The Swedish Government has refused an application from the Mormons for permission to photograph church records from after 1889. During the last 10 years they have photographed older church records with a view to baptism by proxy of deceased persons.

